

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph [0010] with the following amended paragraph:

[0010] A conventional switching device having such a mechanism is shown in FIG. 7. In FIG. 7, the operation handle 9 is moved to a dead-point position (described later) from the "on" position, in a state that a contact point 4a of the fixed contact 4 and a contact point 5a of the movable contact 5 are stuck together. In the switching device shown in FIG. 7, an abutting stopper 11a protruding toward the contact holder 7 is formed at an end of the handle lever 11, i.e. a position shifted to the right side from a rotational center 0 (on the "off" position side of the operation handle 9). An abutting stopper 7b facing the abutting stopper 11a is formed on a peripheral surface of the cross bar 7a of the contact holder [[5]] 7 (a rotary shaft of the holder).